



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

Fact Sheet

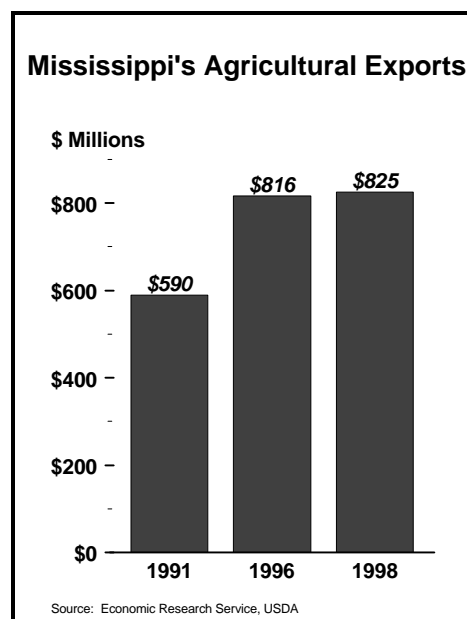
WTO and Agriculture **What's at Stake for Mississippi?**

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Mississippi is an important producer of agricultural, forest, and aquaculture products and exports worldwide. The state's farm cash receipts and forest product shipments totaled \$3.5 billion in 1998 and \$2.9 billion in 1996, respectively. Aquaculture production reached \$294 million in 1998. As for exports, its agricultural sales overseas was estimated at \$825 million in 1998. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 12,500 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports are important to Mississippi's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports has ranged from 22-28 percent since 1991.

The top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # cotton -- \$247 million
- # soybeans and products -- \$215 million
- # poultry and products -- \$203 million
- # rice -- \$87 million
- # live animals and meat -- \$28 million



World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Mississippi's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Mississippi Benefits From Trade Agreements

- # Mississippi benefits under the Uruguay Round as South Korea grants unlimited access for frozen chicken at a 20 percent tariff by 2004. Poland opened market access equal to 8.5 percent of domestic consumption (roughly 30,000 tons in 1996). The Philippines opened a tariff-rate quota for 14,000 tons of chicken that will reach 23,500 tons by 2004.
- # A producer of soybeans, Mississippi benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan reduces its tariffs on soybean oil 36 percent by 2000.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.